

CONNECTION

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January is National Soup Month!

Did you know?

- Americans eat more than 10 billion bowls of soup each year.
- The most popular soup variety in the U.S. is chicken noodle.
- The pop culture catchphrase "No soup for you!", used as a response to someone's request or demand that will not be fulfilled, originated from a 1995 episode of the TV show "Seinfeld."

CHAS SHARES A FAVORITE FAMILY RECIPE:

It was always a big thing when my mother made goosgazoo, our colloquialized family pronunciation of a couscous/soup recipe my grandmother brought from Tunis in 1906 that, by the way, had nothing to do with the eating of geese.

Nowadays, you could pick up a box of instant couscous from the grocery shelf and have it as a nice side dish or put it in a stew or something... but in no way does that compare to our beloved goosgazoo, which was anything but instant.

The process, or should I say the saga, of making goosgazoo from scratch took all day and every inch of the kitchen, permeating the entire house with a thick Middle Eastern fume, unmistakable and intoxicating. We had an extravaganza of vegetables (cabbage, turnips, green beans, and carrots being some of the heavy hitters), meat at its meatiest (Mr. Lamb and Mr. Cow), and that grain that I can only describe as downright Eucharistic. We ate it for days, for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and it only got better and better.

What is your favorite soup?

- Linda: Top Ramen chicken flavor
- Val: Boston clam chowder
- Frank: Potato cheese soup
- Steve: Carrot soup
- Dave: Tomato soup
- Carolyn: Minestrone or Zuppa di Fagioli or zuppa Toscana
- Suzie: Cream of chicken
- Chris: Broccoli cheddar
- Jian: Spicy ramen chicken soup
- Shirley: Pea soup
- Adara: Tomato soup
- Harold: Chicken noodle
- Chas: Goosgazoo
- Mel: Carolyn's tortilla soup
- Jehann: Pinoy tamarind soup



More soup facts:

- Soups are classified into two groups: clear soups and thick soups.
- Soups can be consumed hot or cold, depending on the climate of the region where it's being served, and flavors can be sweet or savory.
- Archaeological evidence dates the earliest consumption of soup to 6000 B.C.E. That was around the time the Mesopotamia/Fertile Crescent region (modern day Iraq) was being inhabited. The soup of choice? Hippopotamus!



Chas's Goosegazoo



We were taught just how to eat it - not too fast or you miss out on the perfect consistency, and not too slow or you get stuck in the Sahara Desert. And do not go for seconds or thirds, no matter how delicious, because, we were warned, "it expands in your stomach." (This is true. I know from experience.)

Anyway, I don't know about you, but I'm always eating food and half the time, I hardly even think about what I'm scarfing down. There's one dish, however, that stands apart in my heart, for which my reverence and awe is truly of the utmost, and that, of course, is not couscous... but Goosegazoo! (For the record, my brother, Mario, never liked it.)

Rosina Bonfanti Abate taught all her children to make goosegazoo and it continues to get passed down through generations. Here is Shelley Keating's streamlined and modernized variation of her grandmother-in-law, Josephine Tramontana Abate's, version.



**The recipe is
on the next
page!**

Chas's Goosegazoo Recipe

2 boxes cream of wheat (quick-cooking not instant)
1/4 c. vegetable oil
2-3 lb. lamb shank or leg of lamb
2-3 lb. beef rump or pot roast
1 large cabbage
1 lb. carrots
6 turnips (white)
1 pkg. celery
1 lb. fresh green beans
2 large onions
2-8 oz. cans tomato sauce.



Meat stock

Fill a pot 2/3 full of water and bring to boil. Add meat and salt to taste. Cook at medium heat for one hour.

Vegetable soup

Wash and cut vegetables into 1-inch pieces. Add to meat stock. Add salt and pepper to taste and cover vegetables with water. Simmer 30 minutes.



Couscous

Place cream of wheat in large bowl, add 3 tsp. salt.

The first steam: Slowly sprinkle water by hand over cereal, about 1 to 2 cups. Cereal should be moist, not wet. Mix by hand in a circular motion. Mix lightly, but thoroughly so that few lumps remain. Now run cream of wheat through a food processor to further reduce the remaining lumps. Return mixture to bowl, add oil, and mix thoroughly. Place in steamer, cover and steam for one hour.

The second steam: After first steam, remove cream of wheat from steamer, sprinkle water (1 to 2 cups) over cream of wheat until cereal is moist, not wet. Continue mixing to remove any lumps. Avoid pressing down or mashing cereal. Place cream of wheat back in steamer and cover. Steam for another hour.

Empty cream of wheat into a bowl, add one and a half sticks of butter and mix well until butter is completely melted. Remove meat from pot, remove all bones, cut meat into bite-size pieces and return to pot.

Serve

Put a helping of couscous in a big bowl and cover with soup and vegetables. Sprinkle some hot pepper over it, and EAT!



CH&S January Birthdays

1/8 Meredith

1/11 Jason

1/12 Randall and Jennifer

1/14 Jian

1/17 Tyrone

1/20 John

1/25 Carolyn

1/30 Suzy

1/31 Mike R.

Nutrition Class: Mini Mochi Waffles



Mochi donuts, mochi muffins, and mochi waffles seem to be all the rage as of late. Mochi waffles are made with mochi (glutinous rice flour that does not contain wheat gluten). We made waffles for our nutrition class using a regular-sized waffle maker and a mini waffle maker.

If you've never had mochi, the texture of mochi is stretchy, chewy, and sticky. Check out this video of Japanese mochi making. In the video they call the mochi-making process "dangerous," and we agree—"scary" and "labor-intensive" were other words that came to mind.

Check out this mochi making video: <https://youtu.be/tmSrULDVRPc>

According to Wikipedia, the modern preparation of mochi uses a sweet flour of sweet rice (*mochiko*). So we don't have to pound rice into flour like the men in the video. The flour is mixed with water and cooked until it forms a sticky, opaque, white mass.

We started with a mochi waffle mix (from Japantown) and we went to town adding eggs and milk. Mochi waffles are *delicious*!

(Above) They say a watched pot never boils, but rest assured that watched waffles do eventually, er, *waffle*.

(Right) Yes, some were quite tiny, but everyone got a chance to taste at least a piece and everyone gave the rice waffles a hearty thumbs up!



Hot Stuff for a Cold Month

by Joe

Well, it's January. I suppose there are two ways to look at it:

"New Year's Day. A fresh start. A new chapter waiting to be written." - Sarah Ban Breathnach

"If I had my way, I'd remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead." - Roald Dahl

Did you make a New Year's resolution? If so, maybe you're looking at the new year the way Sarah Ban Breathnach does: like a blank page. If you can put the cold weather and long nights out of your mind as you accomplish all that you can accomplish, congratulations! You've triumphed over the January blues!

On the other hand, it's possible that this chilly month has put you in a frigid funk - not unlike Roald Dahl. If this is you, then come along with us as we think back to the hottest places we've been in the hopes that they'll at least warm our minds and spirits.

Tyrone said the hottest place he's ever been was a sauna. Phew! They're designed to be hot, that's for sure. But how hot? 150-190 degrees! There is a sauna endurance competition every year in Heinola, Finland called the World Sauna Championships.

The rules are:

1. The starting temperature is 110 degrees Celsius. Half a liter of water will be poured on the stove every 30 seconds.
2. Use of alcohol is prohibited prior to and during the competition.
3. Competitors must wash themselves beforehand, and remove any creams and lotions.
4. Competitors must sit upright on the bench.
5. Ordinary swimsuits must be used. Pant legs in men's swimsuits may be up to 20 centimeters long, and women's shoulder straps may be up to 5 centimeters wide.
6. Hair that reaches the shoulders must be tied into a ponytail.
7. Touching the skin and brushing is prohibited.
8. Competitors must not disturb each other.
9. At the request of the judges, competitors must show that they are in their senses with a thumbs up.
10. Competitors must be able to leave the sauna unaided to qualify.
11. A breach of the rules results in a warning. Another one results in disqualification.
12. The last person leaving the sauna unaided is the winner.



Yes, it's extremely unsafe. The recommended amount of time to spend in a sauna is 15-20 minutes, so let's go with that.

More Hot Stuff

Valerie says the hottest place she's ever been was Oregon in the summer. The record for highest temperature ever recorded in Oregon was 119 degrees Fahrenheit! For contrast, the lowest temperature ever recorded there was -54.



Steve named Tallahassee, Florida as the hottest place he's ever been. The highest temperature ever recorded in Tallahassee was 105 degrees on June 15th 2011. Now 105 might not sound that high (for comparison, the highest temperature ever recorded in Napa was 113), but consider the humidity! Humidity is the amount of moisture in the air, and it gets much more humid in Florida than it gets in California. It's safe to say a 105 degree Tallahassee afternoon would be very uncomfortable even with air conditioning.



Thea said the warmest she's ever been was in a hot yoga class she took in the state of Michigan. There are many types of hot yoga: Bikram, Forrest, Moksha, and Tribalance, to name a few. Bikram, for example, involves heating the room to 105 degrees, then doing yoga! Yoga, which is already pretty physically demanding and tiring, is made infinitely more difficult with the added heat.



Carolyn was torn between Massachusetts, where it's "hot and muggy", and Las Vegas. In the end Sin City won due to the dry heat: "There's no air!" Las Vegas's highest known temp? 118!



Harold's warmest day was spent in Los Angeles during the summer. The city's magic number? 110 degrees! Makes sense, since just a few hours northeast of Los Angeles is Death Valley - the home of earth's hottest known temperature.



Do you want to take a guess how high the mercury climbed on the fateful day? 134 degrees! Furnace Creek, the aptly named census-designated home of the world's hottest temperature has a population of 136 people. Wow. So that's the surface of the earth, but what about the hottest place in the earth? The center of the earth -the core-maintains a solid 10,800 at all time. Maybe Furnace Creek isn't so bad...



SPORTS POP QUIZ

by Chas

For the past 20 years, it may have seemed that all Harold and Chas ever did when they came to work was just talk about sports all day. Now finally, that has become a legit part of their job descriptions. Each Monday and Friday from 11:30 to 12:00 you can see their Wide World of Sports-Schtick on our Zoom TV Channel... with scores, commentary, factoids, oddities, and admittedly, maybe a few too many reminiscences from Chas about the hapless Chicago Cub teams of the 1950s. Here's a little retrospective pop quiz for those of you sport fans (and Jennifer) who regularly tune in:



1. Who won the MVP trophy for the 2022 NBA Championship Series?

2. What is the machine called that they use to clean ice hockey rinks?

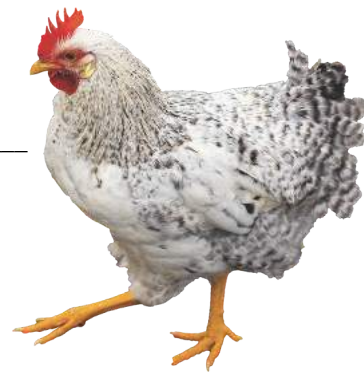
- A. A puck
- B. A Gaetani
- C. A Zamboni
- D. A Ziegenhagen



3. What does G.O.A.T. stand for? _____

4. Who has been called the most hated mascot in baseball?

- A. The San Diego Chicken
- B. The Philly Fanatic
- C. Dancing Homer
- D. Crazy Crab
- E. Tess Gaudry



5. What baseball player said, "When you get to the fork in the road, take it."?

- A. Yogi Berra
- B. Randall Martin
- C. Yogi Bear
- D. Satchel Paige

6. Who is Mr. Irrelevant? _____

7. True or False? There's such a thing as Lingerie Football.



SPORTS POP QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Of course, you better believe the MVP was our man, Stephen Curry. It sure would be cool to have Steph as a guest on our show some time. Maybe Tyrone could give him some shooting pointers.



2. C. Zamboni... but picture Gaetani or Ziegenhagen at the wheel of a Zamboni... Lordy!

3. G.O.A.T. stands for Greatest Of All Time. There are all sorts of opinions and cases to be made for who is the GOAT in every sport... except Boxing. Muhammad Ali is the BAD GOAT (Beyond A Doubt Greatest Of All Time!).



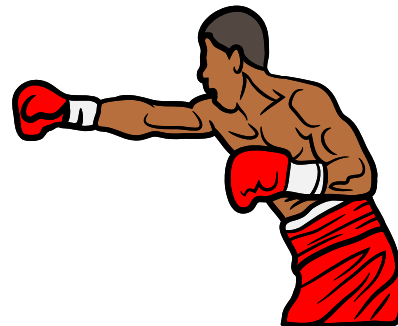
4. D. Crazy Crab (aka The Anti-Mascot) ...The Chicken and the Fanatic were awesome. Homer is fictional. And Tess is not a professional baseball mascot, but if she were, she'd be great!

5. A. Yogi Berra ... Randall says it all the time, but Yogi said it first.

6. Mr. Irrelevant is the nickname given to the very last player picked in the annual NFL Draft. This year Mr. Irrelevant is Brock Purdy of the San Francisco 49ers. Brock Purdy is the first Mr. Irrelevant ever to throw a touchdown pass in an actual NFL game. Pay attention! There's a story here. Can a Mr. Irrelevant go on to someday be a GOAT?



7. True... or as Connor put it, "Wait! What?"



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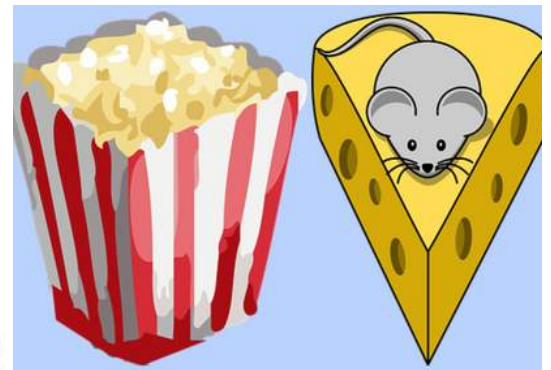
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JANUARY 2023 NATIONAL DAYS

National Soup Month and National Hot Tea Month



- 1/1 - **New Year's Day**
- 1/2 - National Science Fiction Day
- 1/4 - National Trivia Day and **National Spaghetti Day**
- 1/5 - National Bird Day
- 1/6 - National Technology Day
- 1/7 - National Play Outside Day
- 1/10 - **Houseplant Appreciation Day**
- 1/11 - Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day
- 1/13 - **National Rubber Ducky Day** and National Sticker Day
- 1/16 - Martin Luther King Jr Day (HOLIDAY-CLOSED)
- 1/17 - National Classy Day
- 1/18 - National Thesaurus Day and Winnie the Pooh Day
- 1/19 - **National Popcorn Day**
- 1/20 - **National Cheese Lovers and Penguin Awareness Day**
- 1/21 - **Squirrel Appreciation Day**
- 1/24 - National Compliment Day
- 1/25 - **Library Shelfie Day**
- 1/28 - Have Fun At Work Day and Seed Swap Day
- 1/29 - **National Puzzle Day**
- 1/30 - National Bubble Wrap Day and **Croissant Day**
- 1/31 - Inspire Your Heart With Art Day



The Book Page

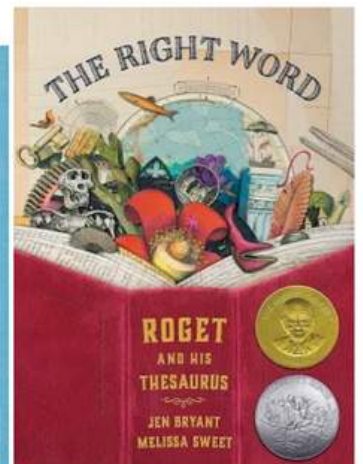
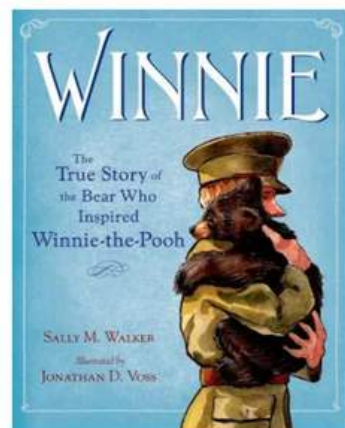
by Jennifer

In honor of Winnie the Pooh Day on January 18th, we read Winnie: The True Story of the Bear who Inspired Winnie the Pooh by Sally M. Walker. Harry Colbourn spotted a bear cub sitting in a chair at the train station, and hopped off to investigate. A hunter, who had shot the cub's mother before seeing the baby, was selling the cub for \$20, because he wasn't sure it could survive in the wild on its own but couldn't care for it himself. Harry happened to be a veterinarian, and although he was a soldier on his way to training for the First World War, he decided he would take care of the orphaned cub. So before his train pulled out of the station, Harry bought the cub and named her Winnipeg, after his army company's home town in Canada. His commanding officer wasn't sure what Harry was thinking. "Winnipeg can be our mascot," Harry told him. By the time they reached the military training camp in Quebec, Winnipeg's name had been shortened to Winnie, and she was a part of the troop. Winnie lived and trained with Harry, and then traveled from Canada to England with him and the horses he cared for. When the war intensified, and Harry's troop was to be sent to France to combat, Harry knew Winnie could not come with him. So he contacted London Zoo, and arranged for Winnie to stay there temporarily. He visited as often as he could, and planned to bring Winnie home to Canada with him when the war was over. But the war lasted 4 years, and once he was ready to return home, he knew Winnie's home was the zoo.

The next chapter in Winnie's remarkable life began when author A.A. Milne and his son Christopher Robin visited London Zoo. Christopher Robin fell in love with Winnie, and that very night he changed the name of his stuffed bear, Edward, to Winnie the Pooh. His father made up bedtime stories about Pooh and Christopher Robin and their many adventures in 100 Acre Wood. Those bedtime stories became the books that many of us grew up on, and those books became beloved animated movies and television shows.

After reading Winnie: The True Story of the Bear who Inspired Winnie the Pooh, we virtually rode "The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh" ride at Disneyland for armchair travel, which was incredibly colorful and cute, and had a brief discussion about the new horror movie Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey, which we resoundingly chose not to watch, ever.

In addition to being Winnie the Pooh Day, January 18th is also Thesaurus Day, and we recommend a gorgeous multi-media picture book biography The Right Word: Roget and his Thesaurus by Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet. It is good, or rather, it is great, excellent, wonderful, exceptional,



WE LOVE BUBBLE WRAP TO THE MOON AND BACK

by Jennifer

Did you know that enough Bubble Wrap (which is trademarked, like Kleenex or Xerox) is made every year to circle the equator three times, or go all the way to the moon and back? That's a LOT of Bubble Wrap! Nino and Jennifer once pulled an April Fool's Day joke on Chas and *Rickina by sneaking Bubble Wrap under the office rug! And, since popping Bubble Wrap is Rickina's absolute favorite thing, the staff meeting that afternoon was pretty loud.

Bubble Wrap was created in 1957 when inventors glued two shower curtains together to make textured wallpaper, but it didn't take off. After marketing it for greenhouse insulation, which likewise never caught on, it was inside boxes rather than on walls that Bubble Wrap found its niche. IBM first used Bubble Wrap to protect their delicate computer equipment in the early 1960's. (Prior to that, packages were shipped with newspaper, sawdust, or even horsehair to protect them in transit.) The rest is shipping history—Bubble Wrap has been a packing powerhouse ever since!

But don't you dare think Bubble Wrap is limited just to packages. First, there is the undeniable joy that comes from popping the bubbles. Why do we love popping Bubble Wrap so much? One theory ties it to our ancestors picking ticks off each other (gross) but it may simply be a tactile, sensory stimulant. Science backs up the health benefits of a good popping session: people are more relaxed and less tired after popping Bubble Wrap! One minute of popping provides the stress relief equivalent of a 33 minute massage. And although there are virtual versions of Bubble Wrap such as apps, digital popping does not boast the same benefits.



WRAPPING UP BUBBLE WRAP

In movies and tv shows set in school, chances are you've seen actors with a secret stash of Bubble Wrap in their backpacks! To keep packs looking full, but without the weight of actual books, actors often stuff them with wads of Bubble Wrap. Not to be one strictly behind the scenes, Bubble Wrap has had some pretty funny cameos in movies, too, our favorite being Jim Carrey in *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective* stepping on a sheet while trying to sneak around searching for clues.

Bubble Wrap makes some fashion statements! A bride in England walked down the aisle in a Bubble Wrap, although she had a second ceremony in a more traditional gown, presumably made of cloth. Farrah Fawcett appeared on the cover of *Playboy* in 1997 clad only in Bubble Wrap. And thanks to Ashton Kutcher in the movie *Dude, Where's My Car?* Bubble Wrap suits are now 1. a thing and 2. readily available on Amazon.

Because it wouldn't be us if we didn't have some sort of food tie in, we watched a mesmerizing video of a cake made with melted chocolate poured over Bubble Wrap to mimic the texture and pattern of honeycomb. [Bubble Wrap Honeycomb Cake • Tasty](#)

Bubble wrap is in the Museum of Modern Art's Humble Masterpieces collection, alongside chopsticks and the Band-Aid. And Artist Bradley Hart uses Bubble Wrap as a medium, creating incredible pixelated works by individually injecting paint into thousands of tiny bubbles. [Artist Transforms Bubble Wrap Into An Impressionist Painting](#)

(Hey, Bubble Wrap made it onto walls after all!)

*If you have extra Bubble Wrap lying around after the holidays, and can resist popping it yourself, Rickina happily accepts donations!



January 5th: Happy Birthday Golden Gate Bridge!

By Darnell with help from Andrew Newson, Nino Gaetani,
Catherine Berry, Iris Linssen, and Connor Ritchie



What do you think of when you think of the Golden Gate Bridge? I think of the magnificent view, the tall towers and the funny fact that the bridge is orange and not gold.

Can you imagine a time when there was no bridge there?

How might people have gotten across back before the bridge?

We may take the bridge for granted now because we are not old enough to remember the time before the Golden Gate Bridge was built. It was certainly a big job, a marvel of engineering. Here is a brief history of our beloved icon:

- An engineering student named James Wilkins pitched the idea in 1849 to the public—most thought it was impossible. People believed that the bridge would cost a fortune and be very difficult, if not impossible to build. However, it soon became clear what a boon a bridge would be to the Bay Area, so a whole lot of engineers set about making it a reality. They planned a bridge that would span the the Golden Gate Strait; it was aptly named the Golden Gate Bridge.
- Construction began in January of 1933. Despite the Great Depression, Bank of America funded the project. And what a project it was!
- During construction, the safety measures were some of the strictest of the era. It was the first time hard hats were mandatory for workers, and workers also used goggles to protect their eyes from bright glare of the water while respirators protected workers from equipment fumes. Suggestions for workers' safety even included what to eat (and not eat) to help prevent vertigo and dizziness.
- Can you imagine working so high above the water? SCARY! Sadly, it was dangerous work; eleven men lost their lives during construction. A safety net was later installed to catch any workers that might fall, and it saved nineteen men! These men were known as members of the Halfway to Hell club. Yes, really!

Happy Birthday Golden Gate Bridge!

- The concrete anchors that made up the foundation of the bridge weighed 60,000 tons. To construct the magnificent towers, crews dropped bombs into the water to break up the rock on the ocean floor. What a sight it must have been! People have said that there were a lot of happy seagulls after the bombs were detonated because the stunned fish floated to the surface!
- The Golden Gate Bridge took four years to build, from January 1933 to May 1937. The towers were 745 feet tall, the tallest towers in the world at the time. Next came 80,000 miles of cables. Good grief! That's enough wire to circle the earth 3.5 times. Believe it or not, the bridge was finished ahead of schedule and under-budget—that doesn't seem to happen much anymore.
- To this day, the Golden Gate bridge is constantly being painted. To keep it from rusting, workers start on one side and paint their way to the other side only to begin again. According to the show "Life After Earth" it would take 100 years for the Golden Gate Bridge to rust enough for the road to collapse into the bay and quite a bit longer for the towers to fail.

I think that we should appreciate not only the beauty of the design, the lovely International Orange color, but also the hard work and ingenuity that went into building our glorious Golden Gate Bridge!

For more info on the Golden Gate Bridge check out:

- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Gate_Bridge
- The children's book *The Bridge Would Not Be Gray*.



Mrs. Annell Euler at the opening day of the Golden Gate Bridge, on 26 May 1937. With the Golden Gate Bridge railing and wrapped cables element.

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Tyrone Behind the Camera



Tyrone took pics using our digital camera!



Andrew's Corner

Animal Idioms

To be like a bull in a china shop means that they act carelessly in the way they move and behave. To talk the hind legs off a donkey means that a person talks too much. Having ants in one's pants means one is unable to remain calm out of nervousness or excitement. A copycat is a person who does the same thing as someone else. Hold your horses means to wait and be patient. Getting a lion's share means getting the



greatest percentage of something to own. Letting the cat out of the bag means to reveal a secret. Taking the bull by the horns means to face a challenge or danger boldly. Waiting until the cows come home means to do something for a very long time. To smell a rat means to suspect trickery. Having a cat nap means having a short sleep. To chicken out means to decide not to do something out of fear. To drop like flies means to give up or die quickly. An eager beaver is someone who is excited about doing certain work. Being in the dog house means to be in trouble with another person. Horsing around means to play rough.



Bio: Andrew Newson is a student at Life College and is 23 years old. He likes comic books, video games, hiking, exploring new places with his mom.... and babies. He is an authority in all things Star Wars, Star Trek and great places to go in the Bay Area. He is currently learning Mandarin and loves to research and learn new things.



Technology and Sci-Fi

by Jennifer

Bruce's Philosophy class spent a record breaking 37 minutes on ONE question (yes, we counted). The topic? Technology! Randall and Connor talked about the ethics of killer robots from a current news story. Jennifer and Katie had stories to share about drones crashing weddings and funerals. Devlin walked us down technology memory lane from pager to flip phone to smartphone. And we all shared how well we cope when the wi-fi conks out. (Spoiler: some of us not so hot!) We talked about the more positive places on the internet, and the potential toxicity of social media if you dwell on the comments, and think about how exposed you are to the online world when you post.

After 37 minutes on one discussion question, we tried changing topics but kept bringing it back around to technology, so 37 minutes rolled into a full hour. With Technology Day and Science Fiction Day both celebrated this month, we turned to our favorite sci-fi movies and tv shows for inspiration. Andrew mentioned space travel in both Star Wars and Star Trek, and we talked about hologram technology ("Help me Obi-Wan Kenobi, you're my only hope!") coming far enough to have virtual concerts with holograms of artists that are no longer alive. Bruce shared being fascinated by Dick Tracy's watch phone in the comics, and Jennifer recalled asking Santa several years running for Penny's computer book from Inspector Gadget (her mom explained that Santa couldn't bring things that were made up in cartoons. "But he's maaagic!") Watches that are phones and computers small enough to fit in our pockets have officially graduated from science fiction to science reality.

To keep the tech/sci-fi ball rolling, we learned about Hollywood science advisors in the next day's Professionalism class. The job of a science advisor is to make a tv or movie world more believable, from the physics of fight scenes and superhero powers to the equations scrawled on the blackboard. Usually a volunteer position, which Randall defined as unpaid work, most have full time jobs in fields such as chemistry, physics, and astronomy, along with a passion for tv and film.

(Right) Connor, Colleen,
Randall, Justin,
Andrew, Nino and Devlin
philosophizing!



Technology and Sci-Fi

by Jennifer

Science advisors help bridge the gap between entertainment and factual science, and their jobs can range from meeting with actors, fact checking, and shaping plot points. Sometimes they help make fictional scientists feel more human, and consult on personal aspects of a character that don't have anything to do with science. The makers of *Breaking Bad* asked science consultant Donna Nelson how two scientists who studied together might end up on two dramatically different career paths: one winning a Nobel Prize and the other teaching high school chemistry, for example. Nelson suggested getting a love interest involved, with the more successful scientist ending up with the girl. Next time you're watching tv and see an equation on a chalkboard, there's a good chance a scientist made sure it wasn't just a bunch of gibberish!

Movie Review: *Strange World*

by Jennifer

Disney's *Strange World* is a new animated adventure movie about a family of legendary explorers tasked with saving the world. Three generations of the Clade family have to overcome their differences to work together and solve a mysterious ecological crisis. Add a rowdy family dog and an alien being named Splat to the mix, and comedy is sure to ensue! Andrew, who had seen the movie in theaters already and didn't mind one bit watching it again with us, especially enjoyed how internal organs were depicted as sentient beings. Darnell was impressed with the diversity of the characters. She loved the incredible (and cute!) creatures, her favorite somewhat resembling tomatillos, if you can imagine tomatillos being cute. She appreciated the father/son dynamics between multiple generations, and how well they figured out teaming up and working together. Jennifer caught a grand total of three seconds of the movie in passing, but said, "Wait, did that guy just shave with a live piranha?!" Thumbs up so far from Jennifer, who plans on pushing her two couches together to make a boat for *Strange World* family movie night.

History Channel's *Life After People* imagines what would happen if suddenly all humans disappeared, often with some cheesetastic special effects. We screened episodes about the animal life left behind, as well as man's architectural marvels, and a particularly silly episode called "Holiday Hell", which showed the fate of animated Christmas snowmen and Santas, plastic Christmas trees, and a factory filled with fruitcake. Cockroaches would miss humans and their plentiful food castoffs for the briefest of moments before continuing to thrive on a planet without people. Did you know that roaches have been around since the time of the dinosaurs—do you suppose they snacked on dino garbage back in the day? Darnell is putting together a Knowledge class on the Golden Gate Bridge, which we learned would quickly turn from being rust colored paint to actual rust without the dedicated team of painters who maintain it year round. Engineers estimate it would take around 100 years for the suspension cables to start snapping, and the bridge to collapse in huge chunks into the San Francisco Bay—cue cheesetastic special effects!

Up next on our to-be-watched list is Netflix's *Alien Worlds*, a docu-series/sci-fi hybrid which imagines how life might evolve on other planets based on the myriad of ways life on earth has evolved.

Some of our Favorite Jokes

Q: Why is Peter Pan flying all the time?

A: He Neverlands!

Q: Why was 6 afraid of 7?

A: Because 7, 8, 9

Q: What does a cloud wear under a raincoat?

A: Thunderwear.

Q: What kind of tree fits in your hand?

A: A palm tree!

Q: What did the little corn say to the mama corn?

A: Where is pop corn?

Q: What did one volcano say to the other?

A: I lava you!

Q: How do you get a squirrel to like you?

A: Act like a nut!

Q: Why can't Elsa have a balloon?

A: Because she will *let it go*.

Q: How do you make an octopus laugh?

A: With ten-tickles!

Q: Why do shrimp never share?

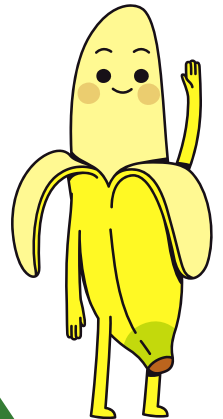
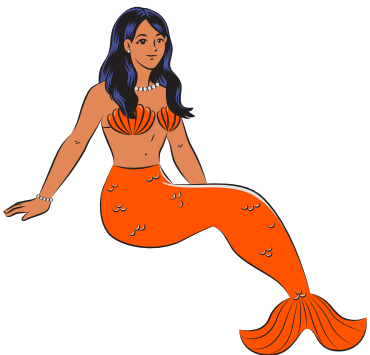
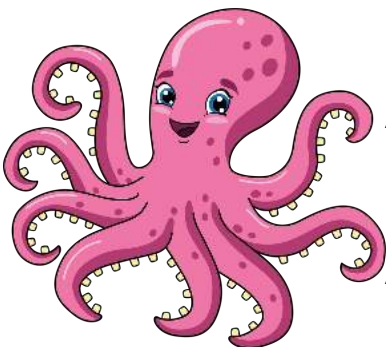
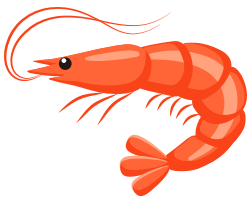
A: They're so shellfish.

Q: Why did the banana go to the doctor?

A: Because it wasn't peeling well.

Q: Who keeps the ocean clean?

A: The mer-maid



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