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BY AMANDA
LIVINGSTON



VOLUME IV, ISSUE I

OCTOBER 2010

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Hey!

Welcome back to the first issue of the fourth volume of *Newsapalooza*! We're off to a productive start this year, with lots of new articles! On page 2, we've got a sentimental story by my sister, Carly Livingston. One of our staff members, Melanie Lukic, wrote about her trip to Montenegro to visit her family, which you'll also see on page 2.

Plus, a new advice column, by our previous columnist's (Desdemona Quack) cousin, Duncan D. Duck on page 3, along with an article which is a part of a series of science articles by Lucy Stockton.

You'll also find fun facts collected by Charlotte Smith and a poem by Jamie Koltukis (submitted the year previously) on page 4, and a recipe for peanut butter M&M cookies! Yum!

Hopefully everyone's had a great start to their school year; mine was a bit rocky, but I'm starting to be able to handle

the workload. (And holy schnitzel, I have so much homework and projects and essays and all these other things that I have to do I don't know how I have time for it all! With dance and Girl Scouts and *Newsapalooza* and friends—jeez.)



Something that

I've noticed from school and spending time with my friends is that you shouldn't take things too seriously. I mean, you should always take school seriously, and that if you're totally careless that means that you need to work a lot harder, and you should take people seriously when the situation calls for it, of course.

But when you're young, you should take the time to relax and spend time with your friends. We're never going to have another chance except for

now to just let loose and have fun. (Unless you're Dickie Roberts from Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star the movie. Anyone?)

So, to conclude this life lesson, (hee hee) take a Friday night off once in a while to just chill with friends, pig out on pizza, and rent a movie. And have fun!

Love always,

Amanda L.

P.S. Justin Bieber movie? What? Oh Justin Bieber... Why? Why would you do such a



thing?



Teddy Bear Lamp

By Carly Livingston



It sat there day after day, its pitch black eyes staring into the same empty room. Every now and then the lamp got turned on and off; but not for long. Only for the girl to retrieve a pair of pants or a shirt. It missed those days where it got to watch the girl get sung to sleep; and the mother would put two shiny new quarters under her pillow when she lost a tooth. But the girl was older now.

One day the girl was tired of the same old room she had had for ten years of her life.

“Mom, I want to re-do my room,” the girl said.

“Pack up all the things you don’t need anymore then,” the mother replied, not knowing where the time had gone.

The girl trudged back to her room. She turned on her teddy bear lamp for the last

time. She started packing her old dolls, her first book and her toy chest, thinking of every memory she had had with each.

The bear grew weary of watching all of this old friends go into that brown cage for he knew that he would be captured soon too.

The girl dug through her dresser, looking for the useless junk she had brought over the years. The teddy bear lamp was covered in jewelry the girl had never touched and dust that hadn’t moved for a long time.

The girl grabbed the lamp with both of her hands and let it down to the floor, being careful not to unplug while she did. She looked into his pitch black button eyes that were staring into hers.

It wished it could frown but its thread mouth was forced into a smile. The girl smiled

back, but the bear knew that she was also sad to say goodbye.

The girl walked down the wooden staircase step by step. When she finally got downstairs, she picked up the box that she knew would fit her old lamp best. She ran back up the stairs.

She quickly yanked out the cord and the lamp turned off for the last time. She twisted off the cracked lamp shade and tossed it to the side.

The girl gave her teddy bear lamp one last hug and gently placed it in the box.

And she brought it up to the attic for good.



Montenegro!

By Melanie Lukic

Over the summer, my dad, my grandparents and I went to Montenegro. Montenegro is a part of southeastern Europe.

I can sort of speak Albanian. I know how to say ‘yes,’ ‘no,’ ‘how are you?’, ‘cheese,’ ‘onion,’ ‘lettuce,’ and ‘tomato,’ etc.

Anyway, when in Montenegro I met my cousins. I had never met them before, so it was scary for me to see them at first. They didn’t know much English, only ‘hello,’ ‘how are you?’, and ‘goodbye,’ the basic words and phrases. It was hard to understand them. They had very interesting and pretty

names, including Bella, Niki, Maya, Andrea, Lujla, Ivo, and Toni.

We would always go to the beach together as a family. Andrea and I would always order delicious ice coffee!

I had a wonderful time with my family in Montenegro.



Duncan D. Duck



Hello my name is Duncan D. Duck. I am Desdemona’s cousin. Desdemona got minor DA (duck arthritis) in her wing. She is unable to write. I will be taking over the advice column for her. So here is the first question:

Dear Duncan,

My best friend got tickets to *The Honeys*, my favorite band, and did not bother to get me a ticket. When I went to her about it she simply said “Oh you like *The Honeys*? I had NO idea!” I am BUZZING with jealousy. What should I do?

From,

Bertha the Bee

Dear Bertha,

Wow, that sounds tough. You should just say to your friend “Oh that’s really cool! You know I’M trying to get tickets. If I can get them maybe we can go together!” Than let it rest.. I hope I helped!

Sincerely,

Duncan D. Duck

Dear Duncan,

EVERYONE in my grade is getting their tail pierced but my parents won’t let me. I REALLY want to fit in but how can I do that is my parents won’t let me get my tail pierced until next year? HELP!

With Love,

Patty the Platypus

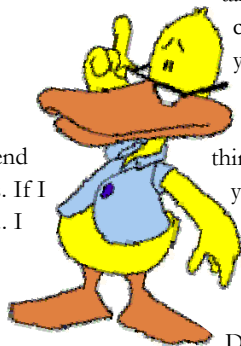
Dear Patty,

First off you DEFINITLY SHOULD NOT go and get your tail pierced behind your parents back. What you can do is get stick on piercings and put them on your tail each morning.

Then, in the future, when your parents think you’re old enough you can get the tail piercing if you still want to. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Duncan D. Duck



From Middle Eastern Oil to Chinese Rare Earth Minerals— Where Does it End?

A series by Lucy Stockton

On September 7, 2010, a boat from the Japanese Navy and a Chinese fishing boat came into a run-in near an island that the two nations were negotiating ownership for. The Japanese took the fishing captain into custody, but while negotiating a release, the Chinese government did something unexpected. Instead of ordering papers and complying with the Japanese, China pulled out a weapon possibly stronger than guns, a threat to stop their mass exportation of rare earth minerals to Japan and the rest of the world.



The prisoner was returned immediately. China mines 93% of the worlds’ rare minerals. These minerals are used for almost all of the worlds’ technologies, and all new developments in alternative energy, like solar panels, hybrid cars, wind mills, computers and guided missiles. These minerals are available in other places, but mining them is harmful to the earth and completely destroys the environmental surroundings of a mining source.

China has very low standards for environmental protection and many of these minerals. They have made themselves

the sole suppliers for these minerals and have made the rest of the world dependent upon them for those resources. This is a scary reality.

Just as we are trying to cut off our dependence on foreign energy like Middle Eastern oil cartels, we discovered a new energy monopoly, in the form of the Chinese government. China has silently waited to announce itself as a threat to the entire world, as the world superpower, biding their time, and building their strategy. China’s strategy is allowing them to control the world.



Fun Halloween Facts

Collected by Charlotte Smith

- Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the Fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.
- Jack o' Lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.
- Pumpkins also come in white, blue and green.
- Halloween was brought to North America by immigrants from Europe who would celebrate the harvest around a bonfire, share ghost stories, sing, dance and tell fortunes.
- The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts haunted the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as humans.
- Halloween candy sales average about 2 billion dollars annually in the United States.
- Halloween is the 2nd most commercially successful holiday, with Christmas being the first.
- Of all the candy sold annually, one quarter of it is sold during Halloween time (September – November 10) making it the sweetest holiday of the year.
- The number one candy of choice for Halloween is Snickers.
- There are an estimated 106 million potential treat-or-treat stops. (as in houses)
- Halloween is the third biggest party day of the year, behind New Year's and Super Bowl Sunday.
- During Halloween, 86% of Americans decorate their homes.
- Of the pumpkins marketed domestically, 99% of them are used as Jack-o-lanterns during Halloween.
- Approximately 82% of children and 67% of adults take part in Halloween festivities every year.

The Fence

by Jamie Koltukis

The fence you see, it sits on the
perimeter of an old jail
The fence, dull grey paint chipping
off, is all rusty and scratched up
There are blood stains weaving in and
out of its cracks
When you walk past the fence, it gives
you a sick truculent glare
The prisoners could never fathom why
the fence would do that
There is a deep well of sadness
trapped right in its gut
The criminals smashed right into that
poor fence once
But you know he's just a fence.
I'm just a fence.
I'm just a senseless dense fence!
Don't say that! Don't say that!
I am not a senseless dense fence!
Do you know what the problem is?
Well I will tell you what the sad
problem is!
I am trapped around this sad, heartsick
jail.
I can't move.
I definitely can't run away.
I can't even go under it, to get over it
You see,
Because I am just a fence
Bound here for the rest of my life
Until I die
And become light
And dust...





Newsapalooza



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Questions? Comments?

E-mail us at

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Recipe for peanut butter M&M cookies!

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup of butter
- 3/4 cup of peanut butter
- 1/2 cup of brown sugar
- 1/2 cup of white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 teaspoons of vanilla
- 1 cup of flour
- 3/4 cup of baking soda
- 1 cup of M&Ms

Directions:

1. Mix together the butter, peanut butter, sugar, egg, vanilla, baking soda and flour until it's not lumpy.
2. Stir in the M&Ms by hand.
3. Make balls of the dough and place them on cookie sheets.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-18 minutes.
5. Enjoy with a tall glass of milk!



See ya later!

Well, guys, it's the end of *Newsapalooza*, Volume IV, Issue I!

If you would like to include an article in *Newsapalooza*, be my guest! It doesn't matter if you're a part of *Newsapalooza* or not, we'd appreciate your contribution. Please send your article to me (Word documents are always easiest to work with).

I'm really proud of all my *Newsapalooza* girls for coming out with an issue and working hard during meetings! This year, we're working on *Newsapalooza* t-shirts, which hopefully you'll see a picture of in the next issue. Until next time,

Amanda L.

P.S. HAPPY HALLOWEEN! No one is too old to go trick or treating.

