



# SOS Zine Session 3 2014



## Introduction

Hello all!

Welcome to Session 3's copy of the 2014 SOS Zine! We are thoroughly excited for all you lovely people to read and enjoy thought provoking and fun topics that advocate what this program is all about. This Zine is written by the Purple Team members, who each write three articles to provide information on each SOS team (Red, Purple, Green, Orange, and Striped) and what they do for service throughout the community. In order to fully experience each team's service the Purple Team members visit them at each site and interview campers about the process and what they most enjoy about giving back. Other pieces of the Zine include serious world issues that our SOS campers are passionate about and fun topics of whatever comes to mind! The Purple Team's service is our super-secret movie and this amazing Zine. So sit back, relax and enjoy your copy!

Sincerely,  
The Purple Team



Please note the views expressed in this magazine by Purple Team participants do not necessarily reflect the views of the Museum.

## Purple Team

by Luca & Colina

Green helps nature. Orange helps kids. Red helps everyone. But what about the Purple Team? What do they do? The team is based at the CDM, and rarely leaves. Purple Team is the eye of the camp, the behind-the-scenes. They write about our camp, and spread awareness for problems, or advocate, as well as entertain through what you are holding, the Zine. (pronounced ZEEN). Advocacy is where one argues for or against a matter. It is being the voice behind the problem or idea. Visiting other team's sites, interviewing SOS members to find out what they do, and featuring them in their movie is also Purple Team's job. Speaking of the movie, every year, all four sessions of Purple Team work together to create a video with a fun theme to represent what we do at the camp. But WAIT. There's more!!! The Purple Team does floor activities to help kids. For example, visitors learn in fun ways such as making parachutes, sand art, and GAK. They also learn to use more technology such as computers, cameras, and software. The team is a great way to have fun while still making contributions that will help the community as well as spread joy and fun.



# Green Team

by Tess and Colina

What's the name of the new Tom Cruise eco-thriller? Mission Compostable featuring the Green Team! The Green Team is all about the environment. They help bring the native plants back to their habitat, and also protect them from invasive species. They keep our waters clean, by picking up trash in the Guadalupe River. They help out at service sites such as: Our City Forest, Veggielution, Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge.

We visited the Green Team while they were helping out at Our City Forest. Our City Forest raise and donate trees to be planted all around the community. At Our City Forest they were digging and pulling out weeds to help the trees get their nutrients and keep the plants healthy.

The Green Team helps the community by cleaning up the environment! So if having fun, saving the planet, and serving the community is your thing, join the Green Team!



# Orange Team

by Cyndi & Emily

The Orange Team is all about working with children. Everyday, they go to Estrella, a program at Gardner Elementary school, where they go and play with the kids there. The Orange Team works with preschool to second grade students and they entertain them as well as helping out with the teachers. The kids absolutely love having Orange Team members at Estrella, and they are fascinated when learning about their older peers. Overall, Orange Team makes a difference in these kids lives.

When we asked Orange teamers about their experiences in Estrella, they responded with a lot of enthusiasm. They said they were absolutely ecstatic about working with the children. Even though classrooms were chaotic, and the children were rambunctious, the Orange Team managed to keep them under control and have fun at the same time!

Also known as the Irange Team (haha get it?), these playful team members take a walk to Estrella everyday to take care of the children. The children are absolutely overjoyed when the team arrives. The kids swarm the members in a hoard of hugs and cheerful squeals. It takes a few minutes for the team members to rid themselves of the children that surround them. The children look up to their older friends, and when these friends have to leave, the kids are totally devastated.

The Orange Team makes a huge impact on these less fortunate kids lives, and because of the team's influence, the path of these children's lives may change for the better.



# Red Team

by Anthony, Eric, and Marco

The Red Team is defined by its color; one of the most common colors of the entire color wheel. The Red Team performs what is perceived as standard community service such as packaging food, repainting defaced walls, working with seniors, and servicing places such as Sacred Heart, Live Oak, and SMUM (Santa Maria Urban Ministry). The Red Team works in the heart of the community, allowing the team to work hands-on with the poor and to experience the realities of many needy families in San Jose.

Perhaps some of the Red Team's most important work is at Sacred Heart, where members package staple foods such as potatoes for consumption by low-income families. This can also be one of the most touching and rewarding experiences of CDM: seeing the gratefulness and relief on the needy's faces as they receive their food. Of course, the Red Team also aids the elderly at the Live Oak Senior Care facility and acts as companions to them. At SMUM, the Red Team organizes a food pantry and paints a mural annually, whose theme for this year is famous buildings and sights in the Bay Area.

Many members of the Red Team have described their experiences in this group as heartwarming and touching, and feel satisfied and content that they are making small but positive changes for the better. And so it is that every tiny act can make a big difference.



# Striped Team

by Luca & Thompson

The team behind it all: The Striped Team. The Striped Team is the leader of SOS. Its members lead and create rev-ups, the fun games to get us started in the morning, and reflection, the wind-down activities. Not only are they the leaders of the camp, but they also are helpers to the community. Like the red team, the Striped Team helps at many service sites such as Santa Maria Urban Ministry (SMUM), and Second Harvest Food Bank, which helps young and old who are less fortunate get resources that we do not treasure as much as we should. As a big finale to the session, the Striped Team puts on a big play for kids at the Martin Luther King Library.

Without Striped Team, much would not be done. The team is a big contributor to the community. The rev-up and reflection helps us so we can go out and help others, and be more excited about the task at hand, as well as let us learn during reflection for important life matters around the world. Service sites are directly linked to helping the community, as explained above. The play is a great way to teach and entertain small children, it gives them someone to look up to. Overall, the Striped Team is very important, as all the other teams are, but they are unique in that they are not only improving the community, but also improving themselves as well.



# Reconsidering the Common Core

by Anthony

Repeatedly, in light of the inequality between America's schools and the schools of other top-performing nations, changes have been made to the curriculum and implementation of education in public schools throughout our nation. However, until recently, these changes have been decided individually in each state based on their state of need and performance, and for good reason; if education standards and implementation were decided on a national level, our public schools would have to adopt a "One-Size-Fits-All" education. These being observed by numerous lawmakers in government positions, laws were rightly passed prohibiting the national standardization of education by the government.

These laws obviously did not stop the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), a program instituted by the government that raised the standards of the curriculum in public schools without providing any support as to how to implement these standards. The NCLB caused many students to fail their tests because of the numerous flaws in their program and was almost universally acknowledged as a failure. It exposed the inequality between schools due to budget, teacher quality, equipment quality, etc. However, instead of addressing this problem by focusing on equity between schools, the government just put most of the schools on the "fail list," blaming teachers and other faculty of the schools for what was actually their fault.

Furthermore, America certainly did not learn from the NCLB as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) was soon born, a veritable repeat of the NCLB but with more "rigorous" standards with even more difficult assessments. Because of the laws about national education were in place, the government found a loophole: the National Governors Association (NGA). The development of the Common Core through the NGA allowed it to disregard the laws in place, and states were prodded into using the CCSS through the incentive of "Race to the Top" grants.

The idea behind the common core is to "define the rigorous skills and knowledge in English, Language Arts, and Mathematics that need to be effectively taught and learned for students to be ready to succeed academically in credit-bearing, college-entry courses and in workforce training programs," as stated by the CCSS website. These standards apply from the grades K-12, and were written because the makers saw that many Americans were not prepared for the workforce, and that we were not competitive enough with other nations. It was developed using surveys on skills needed in college and in various careers, data from college and career "readiness" performance, analyzations of high-ranked education systems and international assessments such as the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) and the TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study), and information from the NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress). The CCSS was created with a consistent curriculum across states in mind along with a focus on content and applicable knowledge.

In theory, this sounds very ideal, but in reality, it is far from perfect. It has had a rushed implementation with few tests and has spurred outcry from students, parents, and teachers because of the difficulty and length of tests to the point which, especially younger children, feel overstressed, angry, and underprepared for the tests and assessments. Students have gone to the point of even vomiting on their tests, showing the degree of the impact of the Common Core on students. The principal of one high school, named best high school teacher in New York numerous times, has seen the extreme difficulty of the tests and is a vocal supporter against the Common Core. The core of the problem is that there is no guidance as to how to implement these more rigorous standards along with the longstanding problem that is not being fixed: public school equity.

Because this is essentially a national education system, we also have the problem of a “One-Size-Fits-All” education as mentioned before. Even the National Public Radio (NPR) agrees that a One-Size-Fits-All education is not the solution to our education problems; instead, money should be focused on the more limited public schools instead of just trying to fit them into a standard system. Also, national education means national propaganda--exactly the thing Americans have been trying to avoid for centuries. It can give students misguided and incorrect political and religious views and gives a more sanitized version of history than should be provided to students. For example, the curriculum blames Ronald Reagan for causing a horrible recession without mentioning the soaring economy and plunges in unemployment rates after the fact. In addition, the common core is on very shaky ground with religion, especially with Catholicism.

Finally, the standards themselves need to be reworked. They call for laborious mathematical methods for even such simple things as multiplication, and place a heavy focus on detail in texts and not enough on critical thinking. Education is our choice for our children, so we should protest the CCSS in each of our states, signing petitions to delay implementation, and call for politicians to reconsider the Common Core. If education is our future, we must protect it at all costs.



# Facts About Purple

by Colina

Purple, described as a deep, rich shade between crimson and violet, is one of the best colors around. According to Wikipedia, the word “purple” comes from the Old English word *purpul* which derives from the Latin *purpura*, in turn from the Greek *porphura*. The first time the word “purple” in English was used was in the year 975 AD. Ever since Roman Emperors, magistrates, and Catholic bishops wore purple, the majestic color has been associated with royalty and piety.

Purple is often confused with its cousin violet, which is closer to the shade of blue and is less intense. Violet is a “real” color, as in it occupies its own place at the end of the spectrum of light, while purple does not. Another difference between violet and purple is their appearance while increasing their apparent brightness. The brighter the violet, the closer to blue the color gets, while purple stays the same.

There are many purple fruits, vegetables, and flowers like grapes, eggplant, and pansies, but what makes them purple? All of these plants contain a natural pigment called Anthocyanin in their leaves, roots, and stems. They aid photosynthesis by blocking harmful wavelengths of light, and in flowers, purple helps attract insects who pollinate flowers. Yet not all Anthocyanins are purple. Depending on their pH level, they can vary from red, blue, purple, green, and yellow.



# Women's Rights by Cyndi

Women have started to work their way into a world of equal rights, though their problems are far from over. Many people still oppose the idea of letting women have equal opportunities as men. The women in today's society take on many challenges from the way they are treated to their economic standing. Although rules have been set in and are very much enforced to the best of the people's abilities, the way women are viewed is still through that small window of negativity. Even now, men are given higher perches than women. Laws may be set in motion, but opinions are hard to change.

It's extremely discouraging to know that girls believe they need to look pretty. Unlike men, women are much more extreme about their appearances. Sometimes, girls even put their looks over their education. People often put down women who want to take up higher paying jobs. The Washington Post states, "Today, there are plenty of young women taking AP calculus and physics in high school, yet we have made little progress in the number of women choosing to pursue engineering in college." Even



in schools, women are thought of as weaker and illogical, and stereotypes don't make the experience any better. Many women are leading scientists, doctors, and programmers that have changed the world for the better. We should all recognize women for who they are and not put them down because of what a history has stated. Treat women with more respect. Don't treat them like worthless objects, because they are worth so much more than that. Stand up for women getting put down because of their gender. Let us stop the oppression that has plagued women for centuries! Help us fight for Women's Rights!



# Doctor Who

by Emily

Almost every day, I hear about Doctor Who or I talk about it, whether it is in real life, over text, or on social media. But I cannot tell you how many times I have been asked, “What is Doctor Who?” and I usually answer, “Exactly,” but, my friends, let me take you on a journey. Let me answer your question. Doctor Who? Allons-y (let’s go).

Doctor Who is one of the longest running sitcom on the BBC and is now directed by the famously hated Steven Moffat. Moffat is hated because he has a tendency to kill off all of our beloved characters. Doctor Who has been running for fifty one years. The Doctor, a timelord from Gallifrey, is a time traveler that travels through space in time with his companions in his T.A.R.D.I.S. According to the Wikipedia article on Doctor Who there have been fifty five companions. TARDIS, stands for Time And Relative Dimensions In Space. He encounters danger everywhere he goes and encounters his enemies, Daleks and Cybermen, rather randomly. The Doctor has the ability to regenerate into different people when he dies. They’re the same person, with the same mind, but different bodies.

There have been 12 Doctors (technically 13) and each one is played by a different actor. The first Doctor was played by William Hartnell who appears to be a rather crabby British man (1963-1966), the second Doctor was played by a Scottish man named Patrick Troughton (1966-1969), the third Doctor was a genius scientist portrayed by Jon Pertwee (1970-1974), the fourth Doctor was a bubbly, jovial British man who longed for the love of adventure, played by Tom Baker (1974-1981), fifth Doctor was Peter Davison (1981-1984), sixth Doctor was Colin Baker (1984-1986), seventh Doctor was played by Sylvester McCoy (1987-1996), and the eighth Doctor was played by Paul McGann (1996-2005).

I know what you are thinking, “But, Emily! That’s only eight Doctors. I thought you said there were thirteen-ish?” Well my friends, we need to pause for a moment as I explain the eight and a half-th Doctor. The Doctor is an alien, with two hearts, and time

travels to unfathomable places. Think it couldn’t be any more complicated? Well this series is just full of wibbly-wobbly-timey-wimey-stuff! The Doctor’s home planet, Gallifrey, was being destroyed, and the eight and a half-th Doctor played by John Hurt had a choice. He could get rid of all the Daleks (or so he thought), and destroy his planet in the process, or have the possibility of the Daleks winning linger on and have a higher possibility of them taking over the universe. The eight and a half-th Doctor ends up destroying Gallifrey to exterminate the Daleks, and he lives with the burden that his family and his home world is gone because he killed them. However, in the fiftieth anniversary special of Doctor Who, all the Doctors work together to help freeze Gallifrey in space and time.

And now we can continue on with listing the Doctors. The time period of the first Doctor to the seventh Doctor is known as the Classic Who era. The ninth through twelfth Doctors is known as Modern Who. The ninth Doctor is a British man absolutely full of sass and even though he only did one season and only had one companion, Christopher Eccleston is my favorite Doctor (March 2005-June 2005), the tenth Doctor is a Scottish man with a British accent running around in a suit with red converse speaking French. Complicated right? Well David Tennant’s complexity is what makes him a great Doctor (2005-2010). The eleventh Doctor is basically a five year old in the form of an adult. Yes, like all Doctors he can be a pure genius, but most of the time he simply goofs off and is totally clumsy. And, finally, the twelfth Doctor is a very ominous Scottish man who’s character will be revealed in August and he will be played by Peter Capaldi (2014-????). Doctor Who is currently on Netflix, I would highly recommend watching it and starting with the ninth doctor. Doctor Who is highly entertaining for everyone and once you’ll experience the fun of being a Whovain. :3



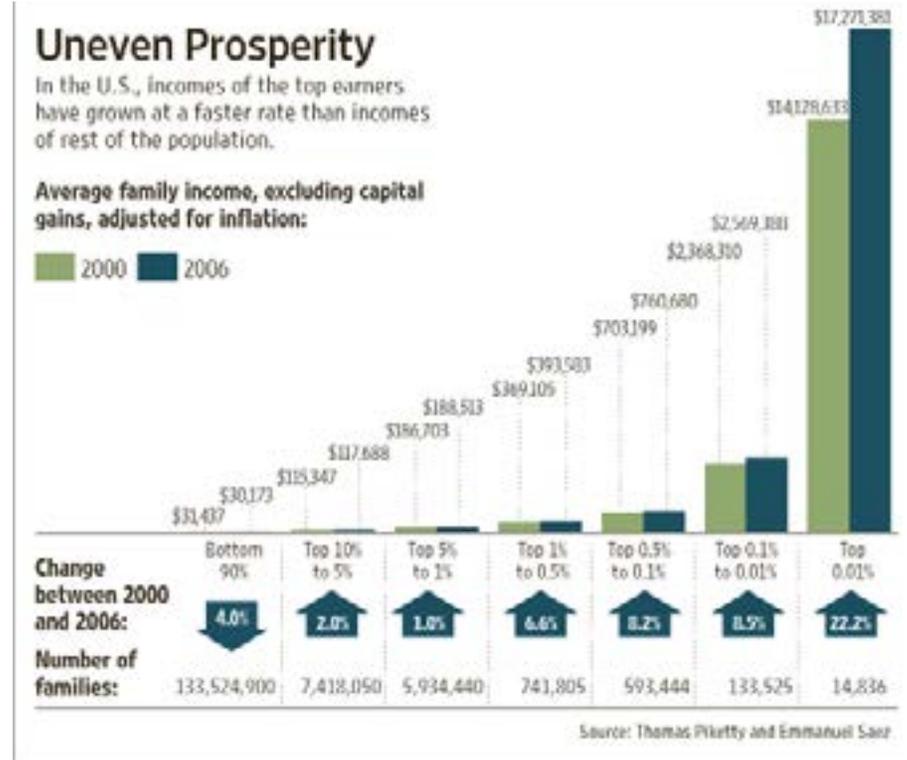
# The Growing Gap Between the Rich and the Poor

By Eric

Averages can be deceiving. In South Africa, the average person has a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of \$5916. Yet around 30% of the population lives on less than \$2 as day. How is this possible? To some, the answer may be simple while to others, this entire concept of wealth and monetary inequality is foreign, even nonexistent. We have two extremes: A very small fraction of the population has obscenely large amounts of money while the rest of the country has very little. The middle class is disappearing.

This does not apply only to rural countries and continents. America, one of the richest, comfiest countries in the world, is experiencing it, too. Imagine all of the money and monetary value of the United States composed into one pie graph. According to Global Finance, almost 35% of the money in the United States is owned by the top 1%. This is

An example of wealth inequality in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Courtesy of Darkgovernment.com



Courtesy of acivilamericandebate.com

immediately followed by the following 60% of the population owning the remaining 64.8% of the money- the middle class. And the lower class? The bottom 40% of the United States owns 0.2% of the money.

And it's getting worse. As found in the book *The Betrayal of the American Dream*, by Donald L. Bartlett and James B. Steele "The good-paying jobs that underpinned a way of life have been replaced by part-time or minimum-wage jobs," (Global post.com.) "As steady work disappears more and more people work under contracts, wages go down, and of course some have no work at all," they add. And the problem is not getting better. According to inequality.org, the upper 5% of the United States has had a 72.7% increase in income in

between the years 1979-2009, yet the bottom 20% has seen a 7.4% decrease. In short, large companies are making money of ripping off honest, hard-working Americans who are merely trying to feed the family.

Speaking of low wages, we return to Africa, which houses the country Sierra Leone. According to Business Insider, the country has a minimum wage of a mere \$0.03. Workers receive THREE CENTS per hour!!! Yet, the average yearly GDP per person is \$700 in that country. That would equate to \$3.5 an hour in a typical American 40 hour workweek. So why the jump from 0.03 to \$3.50 an hour? Is it that most people in Africa don't make minimum wage? No. According to Our-Africa.org, "Over 40% of people in sub-Saharan Africa live in absolute poverty." It's because of the massive gap between the rich and the poor. According to Forbes.com, "Sierra Leone is an extremely poor nation with tremendous inequality in income distribution."

Are there any ways to fix this massive injustice? There are. One of the first things we can do is to raise the minimum wage. Honest, hardworking Americans are not being paid enough to survive in a world full of inflation and rising prices. But what about something that kids can do? On csmonitor.com you can find the following quote, "Education should not be thought of as a private investment; it is a public good that helps both individuals and the economy." We need to make scholarships and access to higher education more accessible to poorer families, so that way they have an opportunity to break the vicious cycle of poorness. Kids can write to the government to increase access to scholarships as the money invested in education will go back to the community in the form of more people working in skilled jobs.

# Dinosaurs

by: Tess

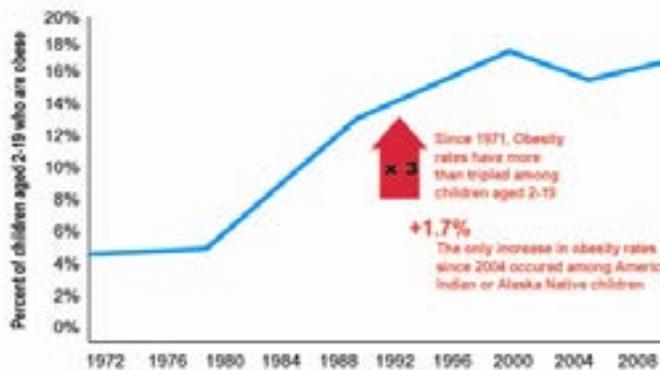
Dinosaurs are NOT extinct. Many people believed they were extinct but no one was sure of it. Some scientists believe there are dinosaurs living today in remote parts of the world. They're not talking about birds, and they don't mean reptiles. They're talking about real, live dinosaurs. Some researchers think there could be many prehistoric animals still around today, even though modern science tells us they are extinct. But if dinosaurs are still alive, that would be another class of amazing altogether! Many expeditions have ventured into the Congo region searching for tangible evidence of these creatures, only to leave disappointed. But these creatures are well-known to locals, and there is plenty of eyewitness testimony to go by. One of the few non-aquatic living dinosaurs, Ngoubou is said to live in the savannah region of Cameroon. It's described as a smaller version of a rhinoceros with multiple horns and a frill around its neck. It also has a violent temper and will charge anything that comes near, including African Elephants which are much larger animals. We like to think of our planet as a small place. Indeed, thanks to the internet and other high-tech communication systems it does seem that there are few mysteries left in the world. But it's important to remember that some places are still largely unexplored. Equatorial Africa is one of those places. The jungles are dense and foreboding and few outsiders have the courage or resources to venture very far into their depths. Furthermore, this region has been over-run with civil wars and political upheaval for decades, making it tough for modern researchers to safely explore these areas.

# FEEL THE BURN

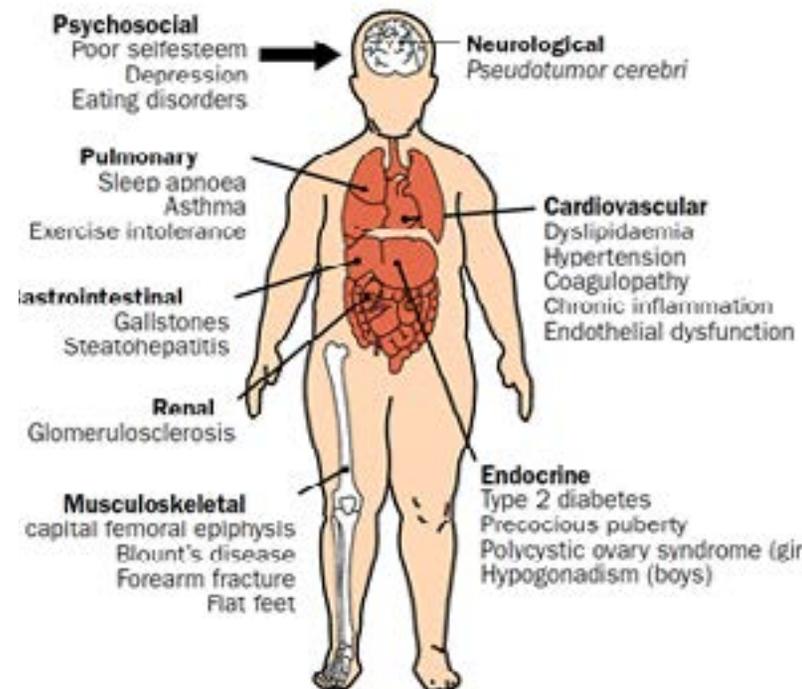
By James

Over 74.1 percent of people in the U.S. are obese, but what does this mean? The world health organization defines obesity as being 20% or higher weight than the normal for your height. Obesity is usually described as bad, as it can increase risk of diabetes, heart disease, stroke, arthritis, and cancers. If you are considered obese, then losing between 5 to 10% of your bodyweight can severely reduce the risk of such diseases. I know what you are thinking, 'This can't possibly affect me I'm just a kid' well sorry but it really does in the US 1 in 3 kids are overweight or obese and this is a serious problem if you are obese now then what will it be 20 years down the line. In fact if we keep going I can see that a third of this generation will not live past 40 and that is scary.

As for food, the solution is simple don't eat any... Now most people find this hard so I give you another option if you want to lose half your weight, eat half the food. Keep it to three square meals a day and if you are still hungry drink some water. This must start happening as otherwise the future looks very very bleak.



As you can see we need to stop this and we need to stop it now, because if we don't the future looks very bleak. So what can we do about this and I'm afraid the answer is simple exercise ... a lot. In this I don't mean go out and walk the dog or bike to school I mean a good 2+ hours a day of hard sweat. Simplest way to do this is to go out and run. Start out small: find a plan, run a 5k, run every day for half an hour then run a total of two hours over the weekend. This takes some time, so cut out a bit of Xbox time and actually do something with your life. If you don't want to run find some sports you want to play or go hiking or climbing or biking if you are willing to work hard and spend time you can do anything.





# How-Do!

Created by Marco  
Issue 1



Have you ever wanted to build your own computer? Or maybe you have an affinity for gardening? Need a new hobby? Is your neighbor getting out of hand? We're here to guide you through the essential steps to create, do, build, steal, or learn anything you want, any time you want, anywhere you want, anyone you want.

## How to Eat a Nutrition Bar

Nutrition bars have grown increasingly popular over the past few years, so you probably want to know how to eat one. But hold up a second! You can't just bite right into the thing! You'll need to take the wrapper off first. Look around the bar until you find a flap on the back. Prop that flap up and make a small tear at the intersection of the flap and the top edge of the bar. From here, continue tearing down the wrapper. Now you can remove the fruit of your labor and enjoy a well-earned snack.

## How to Maintain a Cat

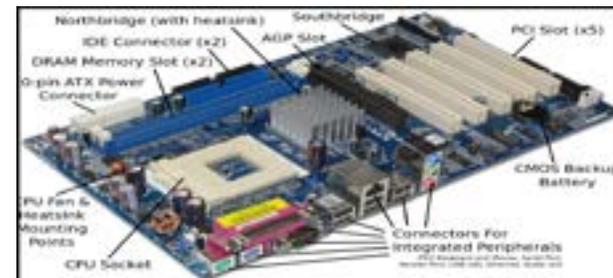
If you have a cat, it's important to know basic maintenance. As you know, cats require cat food to survive. However, did you know they also need water? As you can see, there's a lot more to cats than meets the eye.

First, your cat is going to need somewhere to stay. You don't want it annoying you all day! A small box or cage will do; about 1-1.5 cubic feet fits most cats. Next, you're going to need to feed it. The most efficient way to do this is to feed it only when your cat panics in hunger. Otherwise, you waste food and your cat will be fat. Finally, your cat needs water. Simply leave a cup of water in the box, and refill it every week. If you follow these steps diligently, you will have a purrfect, loving companion. Me-wow!

## How to Build a Computer

Computers are becoming more and more popular with the rise of the digital age, and maybe you want to see if you can make one yourself. If you do, then you're in luck! If you don't, you're still in luck because these simple steps guide anybody through computer making, from motherboard to monitor.

First, you're going to gather the materials. This is important, because they are essential to the computer. Make sure you choose the right materials! Next, you're going to assemble them. Start with the motherboard, and go from there. As you build, make sure there are no errors. Once you've done all that, your computer is done. It's not a *bit* tricky at all!



(Fig. 1)  
The first thing to go into your computer is a positive attitude!

## In Conclusion

In this issue of How-Do!, you have learned many things. You have learned how to eat one of the most popular snacks of all time, you have learned how to take care of man's best friend, and you have learned how to build your very own personal computer of your own, just for you. We hope you use these tips to create, build, learn, and discover things about yourself that you never knew before. In the next issue: How to Annoy Your Neighbor, How to Play the Flute, and How to Maintain an Infant.

## Bicycle Accidents...Who is To Blame?

by Thompson

I personally blame drivers because they park cars in bike lanes and they get mad at bikers because they have to go out of the bike lane to avoid trash cans and leaf piles. Most bicyclists do not know that they are legally considered vehicles on the road, so if they run a stop sign or red light they are breaking the law. If involved in an accident and the biker was the cause, they will be considered liable for the accident, as stated in the *Andres and Berger* article, "Bicycle Accidents and Determining Liability-Who's at Fault: The Cyclist or the Driver?" it says. In most bicycle accidents, a car turns on to a street and cuts off a bicyclist and the bike rams into the side of the car. There are only two ways the accident can go down: the biker will be considered liable if the car gave a turn signal in a reasonable amount of time before turning, but if they didn't,

then the cars are liable. But the reason I think that cars cause most crashes is because bikers watch out for cars all the time, but cars don't do the same for bikes. Car drivers are usually only worried about other cars. I do think some bikes take advantage of their form of transportation, like j-walking across streets when nobody is looking or running a red light. There have been ideas suggested that bikes shouldn't be able to ride on sidewalks because people aren't able to react in time to dodge the bike on the side walk. Usually, bikes ride too fast and its way too dangerous.

Overall, all drivers whether riding bikes or in cars, should be more aware of their surroundings.

# The Top 5 Correct Math Mistakes

by Anthony

1. Q: The value of a word is equal to the sum of the value of its letters.  $A=1, B=2, C=3 \dots Z=26$ . Which is more valuable: ABS or CAT  
A: Most people don't really need a CAT bulldozer, anyway.
2. Q: Cross out the triangle, the square and the circle  
A: the square, the triangle, the circle
3. Q: Car A was approaching Betsy's house ( $d=30$  m) at 15 mph. Car B was approaching Betsy's house at 25 mph in the same trajectory of A. When will Car A and B overlap?  
A: With traffic, your guess is as good as mine
4. Q: Find the angle of point A, point B, and point C.  
A: Left, Right, Right, so Democrat, Republican, Republican
5. Q: Find x.   
A: The classic: Right Here

# Sports Corruption

by Emily

Sports were made for entertainment, wouldn't you agree? The competition and the excitement of it all, it brings us together as a sort of community. But it seems that some people are taking the idea of playing and winning the game too far. Sports now have turned into businesses that contain billions of dollars. It has now been tied into political and private interests. The sports we used to know are gone, and sports have been made corrupt.

According to Transparency International's article on sports in FIFA, referees and players take bribes to fix matches. It also seems now that club owners control teams with their demands for new players or transfers. Big companies and governments can rig bids for construction contracts, and organized crime is behind the bidders and they have dented sports' reputation. Sports' teams also go to great lengths to advertise certain products just to get the extra money. Don't sports players make enough?

According to an article from "The Soccer Mom's Manual" the highest playing team, FC Barcelona, pay their players \$8,680,569 a year individually, that's \$166,934 a week. These sports players are being paid way too much to go onto a field and kick a ball. That money could go toward schools, helping the less fortunate, or Government affairs. How far are we into debt? 17.2 trillion dollars. Imagine all the things that we could do with the money that sports players are spoiling themselves with. We have the power to make it known that sports return to their original state. Even if we can't change the system, team players can change it themselves by donating more to charity organizations that need money and help. Again, according to Transparency International's article on sports with the media we can spread the word about corruption if we work together, and possibly we can make a change.

# ART TIME

By James

As our modern art renaissance starts and meaningless pieces of art which have no relation to anything but a mess are being cranked off by so called 'artists', we have to start looking at younger and younger artists.



This piece appears to depict a really fat butterfly or moth the artist may have been trying to depict the laziness of society or make a statement about obesity as this particular insect appears too fat to fly. This artist seems to be in tune with the common man as depicting the bug as evil or possibly severely deformed. This captures the

human nature to swat anything which flies. Whilst it is hard to tell which species is depicted as it appears that the artist was trying and failing, I might add to depict his rather dismal view of butterflies in general.



This piece rather crudely titled cow and bird. And it appears to depict a dog sized bird divebombing a cow. Whilst this cow does have what appears to be 8 legs and a head larger than the body it is on it also has a face patterned in a half black and white. With a nose to put an Egyptian to shame this cow may represent the multicultural society we live in and the bird the outside forces trying to stop us. Either way I hope the family of the artist Mack did not put the picture up on the fridge as I feel they would of starved to death for fear of the thing.

# Serving “Real” Food

by Luca

When you walk up to your school table, you may see signs advertising, “Eat healthy!”, or “Have a well-balanced meal.” The problem is, school food programs do the exact opposite, promoting bad health and food. The National School Lunch Program discovered over half of students buy hot lunch, or school lunch, per day. The New York Times found that around 80% of schools are linked up with large corporations, prioritizing profit over the health of students. Many of these companies have had multiple recalls. One, Tyson, had a nationwide recall on issued 5 lb. bags of premade chicken nuggets because consumers were finding plastic in the food, according to their own website. I have experienced the faults of the system myself. I asked a cafeteria worker whether the chicken nuggets were 100% chicken. All I got in response was a blank face and, “They have chicken.” That doesn’t sound very promising, does it? As New York Times writer Lucy Komisar says, “It [cafeteria food] is being mismanaged and exploited.”



Schools remove ovens, and instead install microwaves and chip/snack racks. A small portion of schools will get their food fresh from the Agriculture Department, who pays for the food, and will serve healthy food, such as potatoes and fresh fruit, fresh in schools. The growing majority of schools pay money to have their food turned into processed “foods” such as chicken nuggets, pizza, and really anything processed. Part of the problems is that schools do not want to pay for kitchen workers, as well as not wanting to have kitchens in schools.



There are many ways we can fix these issues. It is not entirely up to schools. Every student who buys lunch supports food processing. A simple solution is to pack a lunch. Packing a lunch also means no waiting in lines. Why wait for bad food? It’s either your health or a few minutes taken to pack food. The change isn’t up to the schools, but it is up to the students. Be smart about what you eat, and help be the change that will improve our nation’s health.

# BAJA BLAST THE STORY

By Thompson ...

Long, long ago in a faraway land, no just kidding only a few hours ago here all the hype about Baja Blast is true. People running stores dry chugging it without even knowing. People all around bowing down to the Baja Blast even scientists are researching it, but an experiment did something unthinkable. Someone brought the Baja Blast to life and now they're racing through the streets. Making humans make more Baja Blast and once they had started their first city they just kicked all humans off earth and sent them to the moon. Except for the human that made them come alive, they rebuilt everything out of other Mtn Dew bottles and started a paradise then brought the humans back and they ruled the world in peace.



# Droughts

by: Tess

A drought is a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall; a shortage of water resulting from this. California has a drought this year. California didn't get a lot of rain in the past winter of 2014. California's Government has encouraged unprecedented legislative and regulatory efforts to conserve what limited water the state has in its supply. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency average, an American family of four uses 400 gallons of water per day.

On average, approximately 70 percent of that water is used indoors. Now that people know that how much water they use per day, they start saving, but some people started washing their cars more often and rinsing their driveways. Keeping a pitcher of water in the refrigerator saves time and water instead of running the tap until it gets cold.

Droughts cause wildfires. Wildfires are a large, destructive fire that spreads quickly over woodland or brush with the cause of droughts. Wildfires are starting to spread more and more in California. People say that if the weather is weird, the drought is over; if it rains the drought is over. No, the drought isn't over because a lot the water is gone.

So far, California is enduring its hottest year on record, contributing to the state's worst level of drought in the past 40 years, according to the USA TODAY. The communities around you can help defeat the drought

for next summer by: instead of washing the dishes with an open tap, which can use up to 20 gallons of water, but filling the sink or a bowl and closing the tap saves 10 of those gallons, not rinsing dishes prior to loading the dishwasher could save up to 10 gallons per load. The driest months are still to come in California and extreme drought conditions will get worse. Save water!



# Scary Story (Alt: Who Am I?)

by Cyndi

## Who am I?

I live alone, with no pets, no neighbors, no friends. Today I sat in front of my TV, but turned it off when all that came up was static. The usual. Well, the midnight channels aren't good anyways.

I sat down with my meal. It's quite cold, since I never thought to heat it up. The dining room I've taken a seat in is quite small with the TV only a few feet away. I take a bite. Disgusting, just like it normally is. I look up to see the time. The second hand on the clock isn't moving. I guess I should get that fixed.

A few minutes later I decided to write in my diary. Keeping track of things that happen daily is my type of thing, of course. It's always good to track how you write things, right? I open up the book to add another few words in it.

## *Who am I?*

The drawer underneath the diary holds all my precious belongings. Too bad I don't have any. I looked up to the clock in my bedroom. Huh. It's also stopped working. I should go out to get that fixed as well.

I went to the door and made sure I had everything I needed. My coat had a few \$20s in it. That should be enough. I put my hand on the doorknob and turned it. Silence. Why couldn't I open the door? After fumbling around with the doorknob I explored the rest of the wooden structure standing in my way. I found some words written on it.

## *Who am I?*

A sudden mumbling erupted from behind me. I turned. There was nothing, yet the mumbling continued. The lights went out. It's extremely dark, and the mumbling won't stop. I think I can understand what it's saying though.

I continue walking, yet I never reach any destination. I keep talking, but my voice reaches no one. I am here, yet I am not. I am, and always will be...

helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelp-  
mehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp  
helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelp-  
mehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp  
helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelp-  
mehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp  
helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelp-  
mehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp  
helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelp-  
help helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelp-  
mehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp  
helpmehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelp-  
mehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp  
helpmehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelp-  
mehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp  
helpmehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelp-  
mehelpmehelpmehelp helpmehelpmehelpmehelpmehelp

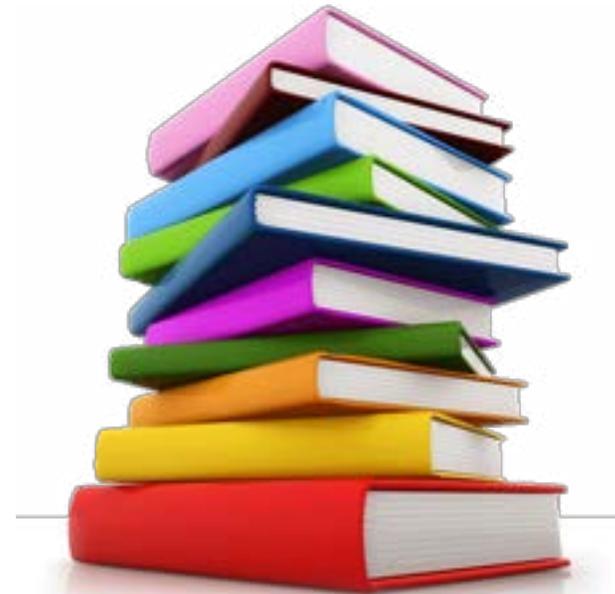
# Education in the US

by Colina

Every three years, the Program for International Student Assessment releases worldwide rankings on math, science and reading. In 2012, the results show that American students scored below average in all three subjects amongst many of the world's most-developed countries. In many countries, the scores of their 15-year-olds improve every year, but USA's scores have been the same since 2003. According to the PISA assessment, "students in the US are largely satisfied with their school and view teacher-student relations positively, but they do not report strong motivations towards learning mathematics." In top-ranking countries like Hong Kong, Shanghai, Japan, and Korea, their scores display that they are about two years ahead of American students in mathematics.

Education is a very important aspect in the community since it determines all of our futures. I come from a city that is more fortunate than others in California, and most of our schools' success comes from parent, student, or teacher motivation, therefore leading to my belief that one of the most important ways to thrive in school is to have some sort of inspiration, like a better future, getting into a good college, etc. As John Dewey said in Brainy Quotes, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." The government

could also help out, spending more money on improving student life, financial aid, and more training for teachers. Better education could also reduce shootings, gang violence, and bullying. For example, Saratoga, the safest city in California according to the FBI Crime in the US Report, has one of the best education systems in the state, leading to less crime. The sooner we improve national education, the sooner USA will shoot up the worldwide rankings.



## Things you definitely don't want to wake up and hear during surgery:

by Luca

- “That didn't sound good.”
- “What the heck is that?”
- “Where did my scalpel go?”
- “Was it the left leg or the right leg?”
- “Oh no...”
- “Whoops.”
- “Oh shoot. This is the wrong patient.”
- “Ok, they're asleep. We can start now.”
- “As long as they're asleep, they won't feel any pain.”
- “What just popped?”
- “I've never seen this before.”
- “Oops, wrong organ.”
- “Why is this open? Who did this?”
- “I think my glove fell off inside of them...”
- “This is the wrong tool.”
- “Don't tell them I messed something up.”
- “Alright. Time for my first surgery!”
- “I'm not actually a surgeon, but we'll try this anyways.”
- “I haven't done this in a while. I might be a bit rusty.”
- “I'm sorry. I can't handle the pressure.”
- “Why is their leg twitching?”
- “What's going on?”
- “Shoot. Its stuck.”
- “No, that's the heart. Put it back.”
- “Please don't juggle the kidneys.”
- “Those are organs, not play-dough.”
- “I'm definitely not braiding the veins.”
- “We're out of stitches; let's just tape them back together.”
- “I quit.”



## 20 Things the Doctor Won't Tell You

By Eric

- Please step off. I'm afraid you'll break my scale.
- I need to get stronger chairs.
- I have to ask you to leave. You are scaring the other patients.
- The last time I had to operate on someone like you, I had to charge extra money.
- There's a reason why you're supposed to wait behind the green line...
- I never actually graduated, but...
- I know we're supposed to sing the ABC's while we wash our hands, but...
- I know I should have told you this 6 months ago, but I gave you the wrong prescription.
- Don't worry. There is a dental office right around the corner.
- I'm a doctor, not a plastic surgeon!
- I'm a doctor, not a psychiatrist!
- You have problems.
- You really have problems.
- I did not sign up for this...
- What do I do in my free time? Um...
- Why is medical insurance so expensive? Um...
- Why is the wallpaper brown? Um...
- Why am I asking you these questions? Um...
- I quit!

# Gun Control Debate

by Marco

In 1939, the Supreme Court ruled that the federal government and states could limit weapons possessed for reasons unrelated to military causes (OpenReader, 4). Then, in 2008, they ruled that any individual's right to bear arms was supported by the Second Amendment (OpenReader, 4). The indecision regarding the interpretation of the Second Amendment has been the cause of a large gun control dispute. People supporting strict control over gun supervision believe that gun control acts are not sufficient, and people in favor of lenient regulation hold that the acts are too restrictive (OpenReader, 1).

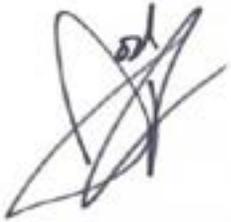
People against gun control cite the rising rate of homicide in the United Kingdom after guns were banned, saying that gun control does nothing to prevent homicide. From 1997 (the year of the ban in the UK) to 2002, the rate of homicide increased by 69.3% (TheCrux, 4). However, those people do not acknowledge that in 2011, many states in the United States, such as Wyoming and North Dakota, had about twice the rate of homicide as the UK (Carey, 4). In other words, the United States, which allows possession of weapons, actually has a higher rate of homicide than the UK.



In 2008 and 2009, 5,740 children died from gunfire (Gopnik, 2). The regulation of firearms and restriction of those firearms to military purposes would undoubtedly have prevented all of those deaths. However, gun control laws are not able to make it into the law. In order for this to happen, more people need to be aware of the effects of unregulated gun possession. If people like you educate others of the violence guns are capable of producing, we will be able to pass laws to restrict possession of these dangerous weapons and save lives.



*Autographs*



*Ali<sup>13</sup>*



*Bill Gates*



